

Albuquerque, NM - Today, Congressman Harry Teague will visit the University of New Mexico's school of engineering to kick off his "Energy Independence Tour" and announce legislation promoting biofuel engineering programs for higher education institutions. Throughout the week Congressman Harry Teague will be making stops at various renewable energy facilities throughout southern New Mexico. During his visit to UNM Congressman Harry Teague will also tour the Center for Biomedical Engineering where the school of engineering currently houses biofuel and renewable energy research projects.

Biofuel production is an emerging industry in New Mexico and throughout the nation. Unlike other renewable energy sources, biomass or plantlife can be converted directly into liquid fuels, called "biofuels," to help meet transportation fuel needs. New Mexico's high altitude, low moisture levels, and high summer heat provide ideal climate conditions for growing emerging and advanced biofuel crops. Southern New Mexico is home to facilities producing biofuels from several different sources including plant life, algae, and animal renderings. As more renewable energy facilities are built and as the biofuel industry continues to grow the need for a workforce that is trained specifically to develop and work with biofuels is increasing. Congressman Teague's legislation, expected to be introduced next week, would provide funding for biofuels engineering programs and biofuels engineering training centers as well as provide for government fellowships to undergrads and graduate students studying biofuels engineering.

All interested media is invited to attend.

What: Energy Independence Tour Kickoff and Biofuel Legislation Announcement

Who: Congressman Harry Teague, UNM Administration and Faculty

Where: UNM, Centennial Engineering Center, Dean's Conference Room ([Map - Building # 46](#))

When: Today, Monday, June 29th 1:00-2:00 PM

RSVP: Sara Schreiber sara.schreiber@mail.house.gov or 202-226-1140